

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please delete claims 1-16.

Please add the following new claims:

43 --17. A computerized system for forming a computer based communications network of network members inclusive of network buyers and or network vendors for processing requests for proposal for goods and services through at least one central processing unit including:

operating system software for controlling the central processing unit, said network members being remotely located from said central processing unit and connected thereto via a communications channel, the central processing unit being coupled to a storage means containing identification of the network members,

means for network buyers to generate request for proposal for goods and/or services,

means for transmitting said request for proposal to said central processing unit,

filter means for filtering the network members in said storage means to determine which network members are to receive said request for proposal based upon filter conditions set up by the network buyer in said request for proposal or by the central processing unit in accordance with preestablished conditions,

means for broadcasting said request for proposal to the network members selected by said filter means, and

means for responding to the generator of said request with either a response from the selected network members or with a list of said selected network members for said generator of said request to establish independent communication.

18. A computerized system as defined in claim 17 wherein said network members communicate via an on-line computer service through said central processing system.

19. A method for processing requests for proposal for goods and/or services from a party representing a buyer or supplier of goods and/or services through a computerized system forming a computer based communications network of network members for linking buyers to suppliers with the computerized system having at least one central processing unit including operating system software for containing the identification of the network members, wherein the method comprises the steps of:

receiving a buyer's request for proposal over a communication network;

selecting one or more appropriate vendors to be sent the buyer's request for proposal based upon filter conditions, set by the buyer, vendor and the network software;

transmitting the buyer's request for proposal separately to said selected vendors over said communications network; and with said selected vendors over said communications network; and

with said selected vendors communicating their proposals either directly to the buyer or to the computerized system which in turn transmits said received proposals to the requesting buyer.

20. A computerized system for engaging in transactions over a data network, said computerized system comprising:

a plurality of terminals, at least one of which being designated a requestor and others of which are designed vendor terminals;

filter and broadcast means for receiving, over said data network, requests from said requestor to engage in transactions with unspecified vendor terminals, and for filtering said request to determine with which vendor terminals said requests should be matched; and

means for matching said requests with vendor terminals which meet predetermined filter conditions for generating quotes from information contained in a database associated with said vendor terminals, and for accepting said quotes

from said vendor terminals, wherein the central database contains information that is insufficient to consummate the transaction.

21. The computerized system of claim 20 further comprising means for communicating responses from said vendor terminals to said filter and broadcast means; and

means at said filter and broadcast means for communicating a selected set of said responses to said requestor.

22. The computerized system of claim 21 wherein said transaction is a purchase, and wherein the purchase may comprise a plurality of items.

23. The system of claim 22 further comprising: means for establishing communications between said filter and broadcast means and said vendor terminals which meet said filter conditions; and means for determining whether a quote for said transaction from a particular vendor terminal meeting said filter conditions should be sent to said requestor.

24. The method of claim 23 wherein said communications is continuous.

25. The method of claim 23 wherein said communications are periodic.

26. The method of claim 25 wherein said communications is initiated by said vendor terminal.

27. The apparatus of claim 20 wherein further comprising means for automatically notifying a buyer when particular items meeting specified conditions become available from a seller.

28. A method of purchasing goods or services over a data network comprising the steps of:

communicating, over said data network, to a filter means, at least one request for a proposal from a potential buyer of said goods or services;

filtering, at said filter means, the at least one request in order to ascertain a set of sellers potentially capable of supplying said goods or services; and

obtaining, from at least one of said potential sellers, over a data network, quotes to supply said goods or services, and forwarding said quotes to said potential buyer, wherein at least part of the quote information is stored at a location remote from said filter means.

29. The method of claim 28 further comprising the step of accepting filtering conditions from said potential buyer, and utilizing said filtering conditions in said step of filtering to determine a subset of potentially capable sellers.

30. The method of claim 28 wherein said step of obtaining comprises the step of each seller contacting said filter means at predetermined intervals and supplying bids in response to any requests for proposal that have arrived at said filtering means and that were determined, by the filter means, to be a request for proposal for goods or services which said each seller is potentially capable of supplying.

31. The method of claim 28 wherein said step of obtaining comprises the step of automatically and periodically supplying the filter means with information sufficient to assemble a bid, and sending the bid to said potential buyer via e-mail.

32. A method of matching buyers of goods and services with sellers of goods and services over a data network comprising the steps of:

communicating, from buyers to a filter means, requests for proposals (RFPs);

filtering said RFPs so that only sellers meeting a first set of filter conditions receive said FRPs;

transmitting, to remotely located seller databases, the filter FRPs;

accepting quotes from sellers meeting said first set of filter conditions, and
filtering said quotes so that only quotes meeting additional filter conditions are
sent to a buyer requesting said quotes.

33. The method of claim 32 wherein said additional filter conditions are
determined by said vendor.

34. The method of claim 32 wherein said additional filter conditions are
determined by said filter means.--

REMARKS

Newly presented claims 17 through 34 have been essentially copied from Biovannoli
U.S. Patent No. 5,758,328 and are presented in order to support this request for declaration of
interference under 35 U.S.C. §135 and 37 C.F.R. §1.607, as well as to more fully claim
applicant's invention. The potentially interfering patent is:

United States Patent No. 5,758,328, issued May 26, 1998, with
named inventor Joseph Giovannoli, entitled "Computerized
Quotation System and Method" (the "Giovannoli '328 patent").

The newly presented claims are substantially copied from the Giovannoli '328 patent.

Applicant believes that it should be accorded designation as the Senior party in this
interference, if declared. Applicant Katz is entitled to a priority date no later than January 27,